

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Rufus J. Anderson,)	C/A No. 8:16-3941-MGL-JDA
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
)	REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
vs.)	
)	
South Carolina Probation & Parole,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
_____)	

Rufus J. Anderson (“Petitioner”), proceeding pro se, brings this habeas corpus action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. He paid the filing fee. Petitioner alleges he is a “probationer,” and he seeks to vacate a state sentence entered against him on August 15, 2013. The Petition is subject to summary dismissal.

BACKGROUND

Petitioner brings this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254, and he requests that his sentence entered in the Greenville County Court of General Sessions on August 15, 2013, be vacated. [Doc. 1.] He alleges the state conviction was for larceny, failure to return rental property, and he pled guilty. [*Id.*] Petitioner contends that he was entrapped because he was actually innocent, and he “was misled as to the injury and who caused it.” [*Id.*]

This Court takes judicial notice that Petitioner previously filed *Anderson v. Director of Greenville Cnty. Det. Ctr.*, a § 2254 habeas corpus action to challenge the same conviction of failure to return rental property entered in the Court of General Sessions for Greenville County on August 15, 2013. See Report and Recommendation, *Anderson v. Director of Greenville Cnty. Det. Ctr.*, C/A No. 8:15-4916-MGL (D.S.C. Sept. 21, 2016), ECF No. 55, *adopted by*, Order, (D.S.C. Nov. 30, 2016), ECF No. 62; *see also Philips v.*

Pitt Cnty. Mem. Hosp., 572 F.3d 176, 180 (4th Cir. 2009) (courts “may properly take judicial notice of matters of public record.”); *Colonial Penn Ins. Co. v. Coil*, 887 F.2d 1236, 1239 (4th Cir. 1989) (“We note that ‘the most frequent use of judicial notice is in noticing the content of court records.’”). Judge Lewis granted the Respondent’s motion for summary judgment because the § 2254 petition was time barred and Petitioner had failed to convince the Court he was entitled to equitable tolling. See Order, *Anderson v. Director of Greenville Cnty. Det. Ctr.*, C/A No. 8:15-4916-MGL (D.S.C. Nov. 30, 2016), ECF No. 62.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

Pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Local Civil Rule 73.02(B)(2)(c) DSC, the undersigned is authorized to review such petitions for relief and submit findings and recommendations to the district court. This Court is charged with screening Petitioner’s lawsuit to determine if “it plainly appears from the petition and any attached exhibits that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court.” Rule 4, Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the U.S. District Courts (2012).

As a pro se litigant, Petitioner’s pleadings are accorded liberal construction and held to a less stringent standard than formal pleadings drafted by attorneys. See *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 93–94 (2007) (per curiam). However, even under this less stringent standard, the Petition is subject to summary dismissal. The requirement of liberal construction does not mean that the court can ignore a clear failure in the pleading to allege facts which set forth a claim cognizable in a federal district court. See *Weller v. Dep’t of Soc. Servs.*, 901 F.2d 387 (4th Cir. 1990).

DISCUSSION

On April 24, 1996, the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (the “AEDPA”) amended 28 U.S.C. § 2254 and other habeas statutes.

The AEDPA effected a number of substantial changes regarding the availability of federal postconviction relief to individuals convicted of crimes in federal and state courts. Of particular importance here are the provisions of the AEDPA codifying and extending judicially constructed limits on the consideration of second and successive applications for collateral relief. *See Felker v. Turpin*, 518 U.S. 651 ... (1996). Under the AEDPA, an individual may not file a second or successive § 2254 petition for a writ of habeas corpus or § 2255 motion to vacate sentence without first receiving permission to do so from the appropriate circuit court of appeals.

In re Vial, 115 F.3d 1192, 1194 (4th Cir. 1997) (footnote omitted). The “gatekeeping” mechanism created by the AEDPA amended § 2244(b) to provide:

The prospective applicant must file in the court of appeals a motion for leave to file a second or successive habeas application in the district court. § 2244(b)(3)(A). A three-judge panel has 30 days to determine whether “the application makes a prima facie showing that the application satisfies the requirements of” § 2244(b). § 2244(b)(3)(c); see §§ 2244(b)(3)(B), (D).

Felker v. Turpin, 518 U.S. 651, 657 (1996).

This § 2254 action should be dismissed because it is successive to Petitioner’s prior § 2254 action, *Anderson v. Director of Greenville Cnty. Det. Ctr.*, C/A No. 8:15-4916-MGL, which was decided on the merits. *See Henderson v. Bazzle*, C/A No. 9:08-978-MBS-GCK, 2008 WL 1908535, at *3 (D.S.C. April 29, 2008) (for a petition to qualify as “successive,” the prior petition must have been adjudicated on the merits which includes a prior dismissal of a petition as untimely); *Griffin v. Padula*, 518 F. Supp. 2d 680, 687 (D.S.C. 2007) (a

petition's dismissal based upon the one-year AEDPA statute of limitations is an adjudication on the merits that results in subsequent § 2254 petitions being designated as successive).

As discussed above, before Petitioner filed this action in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, he was required to obtain leave (*i.e.*, written permission) from the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3). Because it appears that Petitioner did not obtain authorization from the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals to file the instant Petition, this Court does not have jurisdiction to consider it. See *United States v. Winestock*, 340 F.3d 200, 205–06 (4th Cir. 2003).

RECOMMENDATION

Accordingly, it is recommended that this action be dismissed *without prejudice* and without requiring the Respondent to file an answer or return. **Petitioner's attention is directed to the important notice on the next page.**

February 27, 2017
Greenville, South Carolina

S/Jacquelyn D. Austin
United States Magistrate Judge

Notice of Right to File Objections to Report and Recommendation

The parties are advised that they may file specific written objections to this Report and Recommendation with the District Judge. Objections must specifically identify the portions of the Report and Recommendation to which objections are made and the basis for such objections. “[I]n the absence of a timely filed objection, a district court need not conduct a de novo review, but instead must ‘only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation.’” *Diamond v. Colonial Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 416 F.3d 310 (4th Cir. 2005) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 72 advisory committee’s note).

Specific written objections must be filed within fourteen (14) days of the date of service of this Report and Recommendation. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b); see Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(a), (d). Filing by mail pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5 may be accomplished by mailing objections to:

Robin L. Blume, Clerk
United States District Court
300 East Washington Street, Room 239
Greenville, South Carolina 29601

Failure to timely file specific written objections to this Report and Recommendation will result in waiver of the right to appeal from a judgment of the District Court based upon such Recommendation. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140 (1985); *Wright v. Collins*, 766 F.2d 841 (4th Cir. 1985); *United States v. Schronce*, 727 F.2d 91 (4th Cir. 1984).